

IN THE CLAIMS

1-36. (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) A medical implant apparatus comprising:

a plate member having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion and at least one substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said upper portion having a substantially flat upper surface, wherein the intersection of said upper surface and a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis forms at least one straight segment, and at least one hole therethrough, said lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion;

a washer having an upper surface, a lower surface, and an aperture, said lower surface being adjacent said upper portion of said plate member; and

a nut having a sleeve portion that extends into said aperture.

38. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said plate member includes a second substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said second lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said flange pieces of said lower portions extend substantially toward each other.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said upper portion has a length, and said lower portion extends along substantially the entirety of said length.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said upper portion has a side edge, and said lower portion is adjacent said side edge.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said upper portion has a lower surface adjacent said lower portion, and said lower surface of said upper portion is substantially smooth.

43. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said upper surface of said washer comprises a rounded head.

44. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the washer aperture includes at least one tapered section.

45. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the washer aperture is oblong in shape.

46. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said washer aperture further includes an undercut.

47. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said nut further includes tabs ~~and a skirt portion~~.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said tabs extend upward in an inward incline from said body portion.

49. (cancelled)

50. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 49,~~ A stabilizer for use with a medical implant, comprising:

a body having an octagonal shape and a substantially smooth upper surface, a hole extending through said body and having an axis, said hole having at least one tapered section, and at least one finger extending away from said axis, wherein said body has a lower surface that is convex.

51. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~49~~ 50, wherein said body includes a second finger extending away from said axis, said fingers being substantially diametrically opposed.

52. (new) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said hole is between said fingers.

53. (new) The apparatus of claim 50, in combination with a plate member having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion and at least one substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, and at least one aperture therethrough, said lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion, wherein said finger lies atop said flange piece, and said hole communicates with said aperture.

54. (new) The apparatus of claim 50, in combination with a bone bolt having a lower portion for attachment to bone, an upper portion, and a medial head between said upper and lower portions, wherein said tapered section of said hole contacts said medial head.
55. (new) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein said upper portion of said bolt includes machine threads, and wherein a nut is threaded onto said machine threads.
56. (new) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein a washer is provided between said nut and said stabilizer.
57. (new) The apparatus of claim 50, in combination with a plate with which said stabilizer is in sliding contact, a bone bolt extending through said plate and said hole of said stabilizer, and a nut threading onto said bone bolt and locking said bolt, said stabilizer and said plate together.
58. (new) The apparatus of claim 57, in combination with a washer engaged between said nut and said plate member.
59. (new) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said tapered section has a conical taper.
60. (new) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said lower surface is convex such that a portion of said lower surface at said axis is further away from said upper surface than is a portion of said lower surface adjacent said finger.

61. (new) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said hole includes a substantially cylindrical section.

62. (new) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein said substantially cylindrical section is between and does not contact said upper surface and said lower surface.

63. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being slidably connected to said plate so that said opening communicates with said hole.

64. (new) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein said stabilizer includes a lower surface that is convex.

65. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said sleeve portion of said nut is flared outwardly.

66. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said nut includes a skirt portion adapted to contact said upper surface of said washer.